



Local Government for Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge

Minutes of a Highways Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground on Friday 15th June 2012 at 10am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Mrs Horne, Langridge, Parker, with Mrs Waters, Mrs Norton and Mr Wheeler

OFFICERS PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk, Mrs Flemington – Assistant Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Jonathan Dean (JD) – Steward, KCC Highways & Transportation Department (H&TD)

- 1. Election of Chairman:** It was proposed and **AGREED** that Cllr Mrs Podbury continue as Chairman.
- 2. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests:** There were none.
- 3. Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Mrs Podbury had been spoken to about Leggs Lane and Speldhurst Hill; Cllr Langridge has spoken to a resident about the hedge by the Church in Barden Road and Cllr Mrs Horne has been spoken to about the hedge alongside the field adjacent to Ferbies and the Langton Road.
- 4. Apologies and reason for absence:** There were none
- 5. Minutes of the meeting dated 15th February 2012** which have previously been distributed to all members, were signed as a correct record.

6. Matters Arising and Correspondence:

The following correspondence has been received

- Mr Motts of Roopers left a message complaining of the state of the overgrown verges
- Mr Whittaker of Speldhurst emailed complaining of the lack of action in Leggs Lane and pot holes, especially in Barden Road. The Clerk said that the pot holes have been reported. Please refer to 13b for action on Leggs Lane.
- Mr Pitt emailed saying he was concerned that the speed reduction on Groombridge Hill from 60 to 50mph would encourage drivers to attain the speed and asks why it is not 40mph. **The Clerk will respond.**
- Mr Vernon enquired when Long Slip would be re-surfaced – JD reported that no re-surfacing of the road was due but would look in to patching.

- Mr Critchlow reported flooding in Barden Road during the recent heavy rains and said double yellow lines were needed opposite Furzeffield Avenue on the bend to prevent cars parking. The situation will be monitored.
- Mrs Cooke emailed that in her opinion Barden Road from Furzeffield Avenue to Barden Mill had become too dangerous to walk and that it should be 30mph because of the lack of pedestrian access. **The Clerk will respond**
- Mr Hedges of Langton green emailed to express his concern at the height of the grass on the land opposite The Green that extends down past The Vicarage. JD has raised an order to have the grass cut.

Cllr Mrs Podbury requested that JD look into the grass at the junction of Speldhurst Hill and Lower Green Road because it was overgrown and a hazard to drivers.

Mrs Waters said that the grass needed cutting back on Speldhurst Hill. JD to action.

Mr Wheeler said that the 30mph limit had been extended outside East Grinstead to rural areas and was inappropriate.

Mrs Norton suggested that deer signs were needed on Groombridge Hill. **The Clerk will order signs via the portal**

Cllr Mrs Horne was concerned that large stones had come off the wall at Salomon's – she would give details to the Clerk who would contact Southborough Town Council.

Cllr Mrs Horne also said that the hedge along Langton Road before Ferbies needed cutting back. **Clerk to write to land owner.**

Mrs Waters also reported a case of flooding at the bottom of Speldhurst Hill during heavy rain that had seen the water rise up to the level of some car door handles.

7. Public Open Session: There were no members of the public present

8. Update on speed reduction on A264/B2110 – The Clerk, having spoken to H&TD, said that technically the road was 50mph. The traffic order and the legal framework were in place and most of the plans were completed, however the department was over stretched and other works had taken priority. **The Clerk to monitor.**

9. Stone Cross – H&TD had informed the Clerk that preparatory work was almost complete – this included footpath works, an extension of the high friction surface and new road signage and the total cost was in the region of £22,000 of which KCC Cllr Davies was contributing £18,000 from his member fund. The committee **AGREED** that the additional funding should come from the Highways budget and Full Council approval would be sought at the next meeting. Cllr Mrs Podbury acknowledged Cllr Davies's help and thanked him on behalf of the committee.

10. Monitoring of speed reduction accidents on the Parish – The Clerk compiled a list of accidents he has recorded following emails from residents and Cllrs (attached). Cllr Langridge referred to the Minutes of the meeting dated 21st November 2011 when it was agreed that Cllrs would identify hot spots and a letter would be given to residents asking that incidents be reported to the Clerk. He suggested that this be implemented and it was **AGREED**. A4 posters would also be put on the website and notice boards asking for accidents to be reported. The following spots were identified: Groombridge Hill; near the Farm Shop; Langton Road, Speldhurst; Barden Mill; The Hare crossroads; Stone Ness and Ashurst. **Cllrs to approach residents**

11. Consideration of speed reduction measures on Langton Road, Speldhurst – three accidents were recorded outside the school between January and March 2012, two involving cars hitting stationary parked cars (one with a child inside) and another car hitting a car leaving the school car park. Previous studies of cars travelling in this 30mph area are recorded at an average of over 40mph going both ways. The committee was concerned and discussed possible solutions and asked the Clerk to investigate what the cost and process is for installing an ISS on the approach to the school. **He was to report to the next meeting.**

The clerk was also requested to chase up the Police to carry out more speed checks in the Parish, be informed of when they would be carried out and ask for feedback.

12. Maintenance of verges – it was noted that complaints had been received regarding the state of the verges. The committee acknowledged that H&TD had made cuts to its budget but it was considered that cuts to the verges should have been carried out earlier in response to the weather (very hot weather followed by consistent heavy rain which had made the verges grow extremely high). In most areas it looked unsightly; in others it was causing a danger where access to roads was affected. The Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of the local contractor strimming the area between the Vicarage and Forge House and if it was safe for him to do so.

13. Outstanding issues by village

a) Speldhurst

- Barden Road – traffic mounting the pavement. The Clerk has spoken to H&TD about this on a number of occasions and the problem has been explained. He has asked what options H&TD can suggest to resolve the problem because the road is too narrow for two cars and they mount the pavement to avoid each other thus endangering pedestrians. He has so far not had a response. **He was asked to prioritise the issue.**
- Speldhurst bus stop – The Assistant Clerk has emailed KCC asking for the bus stop to be moved to a safer place and they are carrying out an assessment. She has requested that the assessment be carried out from a pedestrian's point of view.
- Speldhurst Hill – speeding and drains – The drains appear reasonably clear at present after KCC drain clearing. It was noted that a Police motorcycle team had carried out speed checks outside Bradley's on May 10th. **No feedback had been received and the Clerk was asked to ascertain the results.**
- Re-lining on certain roads (double yellow and white lines) – The Steward was informed that double yellow lines were wearing away by the Church on Barden Road. He was also asked if white lines could be painted at the junction of St Mary's Lane and Northfields. JD to action.
- Parking – the issue had been brought up with Town & Country

b) Langton Green

- Request for new white lines – the committee considered correspondence from Cllr Hemming who had been approached by a resident about having a solid white line from the A264 Langton Road towards the entrance to Hither Chantlers to include the bend because vehicles are not keeping to the correct side of the road and there are several near misses. A request was put to H&TD but they reasoned that there has been no record of personal injury crashes for the last three years due to cars drifting on to the wrong side of the carriageway. The committee agreed with H&TD's response but would monitor any crash record.
- Parking – (lay-by near shops) it was suggested that time restricted parking with resident permits might be an answer. It was decided to review usage and consider recommendations.
- Leggs Lane - The H&TD was writing to the Chief Executive of SE Water to ensure the issue was given priority. Meanwhile they were checking old records to see if it could be an old private pipe that was leaking. There was also a blocked culvert that was causing flooding further on and JD would investigate and report.
- Re-lining on certain roads – It was noted that the re-lining at Heathgate corner was finally completed.

c) Ashurst

- Flooding – JD reported that the drainage team has been requested to investigate the area by Stone Ness. He will report on their findings.

d) Groombridge

- It was noted that there had been a complaint that the bus time table had been covered by a notice advertising Ashurst open gardens. **The Clerk would approach the bus company to see if they will put up their own notice board.**

14. Speed Watch – Cllr Mrs Podbury noted that only she and Cllrs Langridge and Milner were trained to use the equipment. It was necessary for more to be trained **and the Clerk was asked to find out who did the training and to arrange some dates. Speed watch sessions to be arranged.**

15. Update on Highways Committee's budget - The financial position was noted.

16. Other matter arising from the minutes of 15th February 2012 – the Clerk was asked to request that Town & Country made good the approach to houses in Gipps Cross. An extension of the dotted white line to continue by the “narrowing” by the twitten opposite the LGRG had been requested. JD reported that the H&TD had reviewed the road and it had passed the safety policy audit and did not require any enhancement.

17. Items for Information

- It was noted that a trailer with a can crusher was parked in Winstone Scott Avenue. It was a Police issue. **The Clerk was asked to contact the PCSO.**
- Cllr Langridge asked if anymore highways signs were needed to contact him.
- The hedges by the Church at Speldhurst and by the Vicarage in Langton Green were both in need of cutting back. **The Clerk would contact them.**
- A dead badger was on Speldhurst Hill. JD to remove.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.45am.

Chairman